(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether any decision has been ttken thereon and if so, when;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to take positive steps to provide STD public call facilities at Thodupuzha immediately and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. Shri V. Gopalsamy wrote on 31-1-1986 to open STD Public Telephone at Thodupuzha.

(b) One STD Public Telephone at Jyothi super Bazer Thodupuzha has been provided on 29-12-1986.

(c) Not applicable in view of reply at (b) above.

(d) No applicable in view of reply at (b) above.

Agreement with Japanese Banks by AI

883. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India has signed a loan agreement with 8 Japanese Banks for 80 million dollars for the purchase of nine Air buses; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Air India has signed an agreement for US $ 80 million with a consortium of eight Japanese banks led by M/s Yasuda Trust Banking Company, Singapore. This is to partially finance the undrawn balance of $ 130 million from the Export Credit Loan of $ 220 million which was obtained for the acquisition of six A-310-300 Airbus aircraft. The agreement for $ 80 million which is based on LIBOR flat is envsaged to be swapped into fixed interest loan.

Five A-310-300 aircraft have already been delivered to Air-India and the sixth aircraft will be delivered shortly.

Lecturers Promoted as Readers

884. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total numoer of lecturers promoted as Readers the merit promotion scheme of University Grants Commission during the last three yetrs in central universities;

(b) what is the total number of Readers promoted as Professors under the same scheme during the last three years in central universities; and

(c) whether Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement giving details of merits of lecturers and Readers promoted as Readers and Professors under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) A statement giving number of teachers promoted as Readers and Professors under the Merit Promotion Scheme in the Central Universities is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below)

The merit of the teachers who are promoted under the scheme is judged by the University according to the guidelines laid down by the University Grants Commission.